

R E M A R K S

Applicants thank the Examiner for the telephone interview granted February 2. During the interview it was agreed, subject to a final review, that all claims in the case are now allowable based on the amendments presented herein.

First, the Examiner indicated in the original office action that claims 2-7, 9, 10, 14-17, 19, 20, 22-28, and 31 would be allowed if placed in independent form.

As to claim 1, this claim is allowable by introducing the word "plastic" for the housing parts. The Examiner allowed a similar claim 16 reciting plastic material for the first and second housing parts. Of course in the Okuno '641 reference on which claim 1 was previously rejected the housing parts are metal and welding is provided. Welding of course can not be done with plastic housing parts and therefore Okuno is not relevant for claim 1 as amended.

As to claim 2, this claim has been rendered independent and represents claim 1 incorporated into claim 2 or claim 3. Claim 2 is thus allowable since it recites that the compaction material comprises an adhesive or a thermoplastic polymer.

Claim 4 is allowable since it has been placed in independent form.

The remaining dependent claims 5-28 are allowable since they all depend from allowable independent claim 1.

Independent claim 29 is also now allowable as pointed out with respect to claim 1 since it recites plastic housing parts.

Method claim 30 is allowable as discussed during the interview since it recites injecting a free-flowing compaction material into the channel system. This excludes welding since in welding there is no injection of a free-flowing compaction material. Therefore this method claim language distinguishes over Okuno, as agreed during the telephone interview.

Dependent claim 31 is allowable at least for the reasons claim 30 is allowable.

The case may now be passed to issuance.

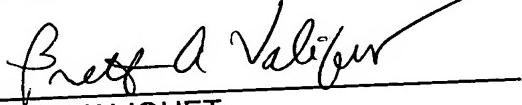
Respectfully submitted,


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